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HEALTH

LINKING INITIATIVES and NETWORKING to CONTROL TUBERCULOSIS - Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

TB LINC
LINKING INITIATIVES and NETWORKING
to CONTROL TUBERCULOSIS

GOAL

To achieve at least 85% treatment success rate for TB in participating units

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Improve the policy, financing and regulatory environment for "Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course" (DOTS) implementation
2. Improve systems capacity for quality DOTS implementation
3. Improve utilization of DOTS facilities and services, and behavior and attitude for TB control and treatment

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Project has three major components: 1) policy and financing; 2) systems strengthening, and 3) social mobilization and behavior change communication.

In collaboration with partners, the Project will work to achieve the following results:

- improved TB policy and financing environment
- scaled-up and sustained private-public mix DOTS (PPMD) units
- strengthened coordination and collaboration
- strengthened human resources and institutional capacity for TB control
- strengthened TB laboratory network
- improved management and supply of quality anti-TB drugs
- improved management of multiple drug-resistant TB
- improved knowledge and health behaviors
- increased community involvement in TB

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Philippines carries the 9th largest burden of tuberculosis in the world. Approximately 390,038 Filipinos have TB, and 75 people die daily from this curable disease.

Through the Department of Health's National Tuberculosis Control Program and with the support of local governments nationwide, the Philippines achieved great strides in TB control in the mid-1990s, when it launched DOTS, a cost-effective approach championed by the Philippine Government and endorsed by the World Health Organization.

The **TB LINC Project** is a new five-year USAID-funded (from October 2006 to September 2011) and DOH-led initiative to sustain the coordination and collaboration of TB control partners from both the public and private sectors. TB LINC supports the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce TB prevalence and mortality by half by 2010, by helping the Philippine government achieve the targets of 70% case detection rate and 85% treatment success rate.



The project's overarching strategy is DOTS, or "Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course", which is the most cost-effective strategy to control TB and is endorsed by the Philippine DOH and WHO.

TB LINC is being managed by Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a national non-governmental organization in the Philippines. The project provides technical assistance to the National TB Program and works directly with 21 high TB prevalence and low-performing provinces and cities throughout the country, including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.